

IN THE CLAIMS

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Claims 1-8(Canceled)

--9. (Previously Presented) A data recording method, comprising the steps of:
receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;
temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;
detecting a continuous recordable area of at least a predetermined size on said recording medium; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption; and
recording the data in the continuous recordable area.

--10. (Previously Presented) A data recording method, comprising the steps of:
receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;
temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;
detecting a continuous recordable area on said recording medium of at least a predetermined size for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced without an interruption; and
recording the data in the continuous recordable area.--

--11. (Previously Presented) A data recording apparatus, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;
storing means for temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;

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detecting means for detecting a continuous recordable area of at least a predetermined size on said recording medium; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption; and

recording means for recording the data in the continuous recordable area.--

--12. (Previously Presented) A data recording apparatus, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a variable bit-rate data stream;
storing means for temporarily storing said variable bit-rate data stream into a buffer memory;
detecting means for detecting a continuous recordable area on said recording medium of at least a predetermined size for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced without an interruption; and
recording means for recording the data in the continuous recordable area.--

--13. (Previously Presented) A data recording method for recording data onto a recording medium to be reproduced by a reproduction device having a buffer memory for temporarily storing the data, comprising the steps of:
inserting variable bit-rate data smaller than a predetermined size; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption;
combining the inserted data with recorded data adjacent to the inserted data to form a data unit of at least said predetermined size;

recording the data unit in a continuous recordable area on the recording medium.--

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--14. (Previously Presented) A data recording apparatus for recording data onto a recording medium to be reproduced by a reproduction device having a buffer memory for temporarily storing the data, comprising the steps of:

inserting means for inserting variable bit-rate data smaller than a predetermined size; said predetermined size being determined on the basis of the length of time for which the variable bit-rate data can be reproduced at a maximum bit-rate without an interruption;

combining means for combining the inserted data with recorded data adjacent to the inserted data to form a data unit of at least said predetermined size;

recording means for recording the data unit in a continuous recordable area on the recording medium.--